

Appl. No. 09/940,757
Amdt. Dated 13 December 2004
Reply to Office action of 20 October 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application as amended is requested. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claim 2 has been cancelled, and new claims 21 and 22 have been added. Claims 1, 3-6, and 21-22 remain in the application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 and 3-5 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Xu et al. in view of Yoshikawa et al.

The limitations of claim 2, identified by the Examiner as having allowable subject matter, have been inserted into claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 as amended is believed allowable.

Claims 3-5 are believed allowable since they depend from what is believed to be an allowable claim, and for the additional limitations they add.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103 has been overcome by the amendment and remarks.

OBJECTION TO CLAIM 2

Claim 2 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

The remaining cited references have been reviewed and are not believed to affect the patentability of the claims as amended.

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No amendment made herein was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated; and no amendment made herein was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at 480-385-5060.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to comment on document